

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims pending:

- At time of the Action: Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 13-15, and 21-29.
- After this Response: Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9, 13-15, and 21-29.

1. (Previously Presented) In a telecommunication system via an advanced intelligent network (AIN), a method for blocking future calls from a caller to a callee, the method comprising:

receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from a telephone number associated with the caller to the callee;

providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

receiving a second instruction from the callee prior to an expiration of a predetermined time period;

receiving and identifying a telephone number to block associated with the caller;

storing the telephone number to block associated with the caller in a caller block table in a service data point (SDP); and

preventing, via a service switching point (SSP), one or more phone calls from the telephone number associated with the caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee; and

playing a callee-selected message back to the caller of the telephone number to block when the caller attempts to call the callee.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein receiving the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from the callee; and
receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein receiving and identifying the telephone number to block includes:

maintaining a record of the most recent telephone number that was a source of a call placed to the second telephone number immediately prior to receiving the callee's instruction to block future calls from the caller to the callee; and

consulting the record to identify the most recent telephone number as the telephone number to block; and

identifying the telephone number using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology.

5.-6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising determining that the second instruction is an instruction from the callee to place a call block or to perform an administrative tasks.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1 further comprising prompting the callee to record a message to be played to the caller.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising prompting the callee to select a pre-recorded message to be played to the caller when the caller is blocked from placing a call to the callee, and further comprising enabling the callee to record the message in the callee's own voice.

10.-12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) A telecommunications system, comprising:
a service switching point (SSP) in communication with a first telecommunications device associated with a callee and a second communications device associated with a caller;

a service control point (SCP) in communication with the SSP, the SCP having stored thereon instructions and data which, when executed, cause the telecommunications system to:

recognize a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from the second telecommunication device to the callee;

provide at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

receive a second instruction from the callee prior to an expiration of a predetermined time period;

receive and identify a telephone number to block associated with the caller of the second communication device; and

prevent one or more phone call from the telephone number to block associated with the caller of the second communication device from being forwarded to the first telecommunication device associated with the callee; and

playing a callee-selected message back to the caller when the caller of the second communication device attempts to call the callee.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein recognizing the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee; and

receiving and identifying a telephone number to block associated with the second communication device using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising a database in communication with the SCP.

16.-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) In a telecommunication system via a telephone network, a method for blocking future calls from a caller to a callee, the method comprising:

receiving a first instruction from the callee to access a service to block future calls from a telephone number associated with the caller to the callee;

providing at least one callee selection via a voice prompt responsive to the first instruction;

sending a voice announcement to the callee if a second instruction is not received before a predetermined time period has expired;

enabling the user to manually identify a telephone number to block associated with the caller; and

preventing one or more phone calls from the telephone number associated with the caller from being forwarded to a second telephone number associated with the callee.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, wherein receiving the first instruction from the callee includes:

detecting an off-hook signal from the callee; and

receiving a predetermined code from the callee.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 21, wherein identifying the telephone number to block includes:

maintaining a record of the most recent telephone number that was a source of a call placed to the second telephone number immediately prior to receiving the callee's instruction to block future calls from the caller to the callee; and

consulting the record to identify the most recent telephone number as the telephone number to block; and

identifying the telephone number to block using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising removing a block placed on a specific telephone number.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising sending a voice message to a caller whose telephone number has been unblocked.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, further comprising blocking the telephone number associated with a recent caller using at least one of a reverse caller-ID technology and a reverse white pages look-up technology and blocking one or more telephone numbers as specified by the callee.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising removing a block placed on a specific telephone number.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising sending a voice message to a caller whose telephone number has been unblocked.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising blocking the telephone number associated with a recent caller and blocking one or more telephone numbers as specified by the callee.